

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 18, 20-23, 26-29, 35, and 56-73 are pending. Claims 20-21, 26-28, 56-61, 63, 65, 68, and 71-72 have been amended. New claim 73 has been added. Claims 1-19, 24-25, 30-34, 36-55, 62, and 66-67 have been canceled. No new matter has been introduced by the new or amended claims.

Claim 72 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claims 18, 26, 28, 35, 59-62, 67, and 72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. ('831) in view of Manjunath et al. ('438).

Claims 56-58 and 66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of Manjunath et al. and further in view of Chu et al.

Claim 68 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. in view of Manjunath et al. and further in view of Tsuchinaga et al.

As presented, the pending claims of the subject application comply with all requirements of 35 U.S.C. Accordingly, Applicants request allowance of the pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-23, 27, 29, 63-65, and 69-71 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter pending the aforementioned amendments.

Of the allowable claims, claims 20, 21, 27, 63, and 65 have been rewritten in independent form and include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. All of the other pending claims depend either directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims or have been amended to depend from one of the independent claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 20-23, 26-29, 35, 56-61, 63-65, and 68-73 are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 72 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 72 has been amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, rejection. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 72 as amended is definite.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

All claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) depend either directly or indirectly from one of the five independent claims 20, 21, 27, 63, and 65. As stated above, independent claims 20, 21, 27, 63, and 65 are in condition for allowance, and thus the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are moot.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance and an action to that end is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,

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